

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1            1-45. (Canceled)

1           46.     (New)A method of merging display items in an encoded format, comprising:  
2                   providing a plurality of compressed display items to be merged, the  
3     compressed display items comprising compressed rasterized line work, contone objects that  
4     are to be combine to produce a final merged output for an imaging system;  
5                   defining a target item having a target area, the target area being defined by a  
6     boundary that extends from a leftmost pixel of a leftmost display item of the plurality of  
7     compressed display items to a rightmost pixel of a rightmost display item of the plurality of  
8     compressed display items;  
9                   decompresssing each of the plurality of compressed display items to form  
10    tokens;  
11                  assigning each of the plurality of decompressed display items a priority;  
12                  examining the decompressed display items based on the assigned item  
13    priority;  
14                  aligning each of the decompressed display items relative to the n pixel  
15    boundaries within the target area;  
16                  merging the decompressed display items in the target area to produce the final  
17    merged output for an imaging system according to item priority and pixel control data to  
18    produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality of display  
19    items; and  
20                  re-compressing the merged display items to produce the final merged output  
21    for an imaging system.

1           47.     (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the display items comprises at least  
2     some of repeat data, pass-thru data, an end of scan code, and an end of block code.

1           48.     (New) The method of claim 46, wherein examining the display items  
2     comprises skipping data at particular locations of lower priority display items when  
3     corresponding locations of higher priority display items are non-transparent.

1           49.     (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the decompressed display items  
2     being merged comprise up to five ranges within the target area, the five ranges comprising  
3     left padding of multiples of  $n$  pixels, a transition defined across  $n$  pixels from the padding to  
4     the display item to be merged, mid-object pixels, a transition defined across  $n$  pixels within a  
5     target area from the display item to be merged to right padding, and right padding of  
6     multiples of  $n$  pixels.

1           50.     (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the tokens represent counts of  
2     repeated data or pointers to pass-thru data associated with the decompressed display items to  
3     be merged.

1           51.     (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the tokenized display items are  
2     prioritized to define an arrangement of overlaying display items and underlying display  
3     items, wherein the tokens are modified into smaller tokens by underlying display items  
4     depending on tokens found in an overlaying item.

1           52.     (Currently Amended) A system for merging display items in an encoded  
2     format, comprising:  
3                 a memory for storing a plurality of compressed display items to be merged,  
4     the compressed display items, the memory being further configured to define a target item  
5     having a target area, the target area being defined by a boundary that extends from a leftmost  
6     pixel of a leftmost compressed display item of the plurality of compressed display items to a  
7     rightmost pixel of a rightmost compressed display item of the plurality of compressed display  
8     items; and  
9                 a processor, coupled to the memory, for decompressing each of the plurality  
10    of compressed display items to form tokens, assigning each of the plurality of decompressed  
11    display items a priority, examining the decompressed display items on the basis of the  
12    assigned item priority, aligning each of the decompressed display items relative to the n pixel  
13    boundaries within the target area, merging the decompressed display items in the target area  
14    to produce the final merged output for an imaging system according to item priority and pixel  
15    control data to produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality  
16    of display items and re-compressing the merged display items to produce the final merged  
17    output for an imaging system.

1           53.     (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the display items comprises at least  
2     some of repeat data, pass-thru data, an end of scan code, and an end of block code.

1           54.     (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the processor examines the display  
2     items by skipping data at particular locations of lower priority display items when  
3     corresponding locations of higher priority display items are non-transparent.

1           55.     (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the decompressed display items  
2     being merged comprise up to five ranges within the target area, the five ranges comprising  
3     left padding of multiples of  $n$  pixels, a transition defined across  $n$  pixels from the padding to  
4     the display item to be merged, mid-object pixels, a transition defined across  $n$  pixels within a  
5     target area from the display item to be merged to right padding, and right padding of  
6     multiples of  $n$  pixels.

1           56.     (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the tokens represent counts of  
2     repeated data or pointers to pass-thru data associated with the decompressed display items to  
3     be merged.

1           57.     (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the processor prioritized the  
2     tokenized display items to define an arrangement of overlaying display items and underlying  
3     display items, wherein the tokens are modified into smaller tokens by underlying display  
4     items depending on tokens found in an overlaying item.

1           58.     (Currently Amended) An information bearing medium, comprising processor-  
2     readable instructions for merging display items in an encoded format, the processor-readable  
3     instructions causing a processor to perform operations, comprising:  
4                 providing a plurality of compressed display items to be merged, the  
5     compressed display items comprising compressed rasterized line work, contone objects that  
6     are to be combine to produce a final merged output for an imaging system;  
7                 defining a target item having a target area, the target area being defined by a  
8     boundary that extends from a leftmost pixel of a leftmost display item of the plurality of  
9     compressed display items to a rightmost pixel of a rightmost display item of the plurality of  
10    compressed display items;  
11                decompresssing each of the plurality of compressed display items to form  
12    tokens;  
13                assigning each of the plurality of decompressed display items a priority;  
14                examining the decompressed display items based on the assigned item  
15    priority;  
16                aligning each of the decompressed display items relative to the n pixel  
17    boundaries within the target area;  
18                merging the decompressed display items in the target area to produce the final  
19    merged output for an imaging system according to item priority and pixel control data to  
20    produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality of display  
21    items; and  
22                re-compressing the merged display items to produce the final merged output  
23    for an imaging system.

1           59.     (New) The information bearing medium of claim 58, wherein the display  
2 items comprises at least some of repeat data, pass-thru data, an end of scan code, and an end  
3 of block code.

1           60.     (New) The information bearing medium of claim 58, wherein examining the  
2 display items comprises skipping data at particular locations of lower priority display items  
3 when corresponding locations of higher priority display items are non-transparent.

1           61.     (New) The information bearing medium of claim 58, wherein the  
2 decompressed display items being merged comprise up to five ranges within the target area,  
3 the five ranges comprising left padding of multiples of  $n$  pixels, a transition defined across  $n$   
4 pixels from the padding to the display item to be merged, mid-object pixels, a transition  
5 defined across  $n$  pixels within a target area from the display item to be merged to right  
6 padding, and right padding of multiples of  $n$  pixels.

1           62.     (New) The information bearing medium of claim 58, wherein the tokens  
2 represent counts of repeated data or pointers to pass-thru data associated with the  
3 decompressed display items to be merged.

1           63.     (New) The information bearing medium of claim 58, wherein the tokenized  
2 display items are prioritized to define an arrangement of overlaying display items and  
3 underlying display items, wherein the tokens are modified into smaller tokens by underlying  
4 display items depending on tokens found in an overlaying item.